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                                                Intel Corporation: P7976

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and

listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method,

comprising:

obtaining policy rules, and simplifying said policy rules,

~~at least to remove duplicate policy rules and~~ to form simplified

policy rules, wherein a policy rule comprises one or more

conditions and one or more values associated with the one or

more conditions, the one or more conditions to be evaluated for

network communications based on the one or more values, and said

simplifying comprises eliminating at least one of any redundant

conditions and values from the policy rule based at least in

part on condition-type information of the one or more

conditions; and

based on said simplified policy rules, creating an access

control list adapted to configure a network device; and

using the access control list to generate access filters

that configure the network device to control network

communications in the network device.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further

comprising expanding the policy rules into value groups that

represent conditions occurring in the network device associated with the policy rules.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said simplifying comprises excluding conditions that would otherwise be implied by policy rules.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising resolving inconsistent conditions that result from expanding the policy rules and excluding the policy rule conditions.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating at least one array of included or excluded conditions from the policy rules.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein generating the access filters further comprises:

adding filters adapted to control access of a device to a component other than the network device in the network connected to the network device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising generating deny filters by combining the at least one array of excluded conditions and the at least one array of included conditions.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising generating permit filters by combining the at least one of the arrays of the included conditions with the remaining arrays of included conditions.

9.   (Currently Amended) A system ~~computer network,~~ comprising:

a first device adapted to disseminate policy rules in ~~the~~ a network; and

a second device adapted to receive the policy rules disseminated on the network by the first device and adapted to perform operations comprising:

simplifying said policy rules~~, at least to remove~~

~~duplicate policy rules and~~ to form simplified policy rules,

wherein a policy rule comprises one or more conditions and

one or more values associated with the one or more

conditions, the one or more conditions to be evaluated for

network communications based on the one or more values, and

said simplifying comprises eliminating at least one of any

redundant conditions and values from the policy rule based

at least in part on condition-type information of the one or

more conditions;

based on said simplified policy rules, creating[[e]] an

access control list adapted to configure a network the at

least one device from the filters; and

to using[[e]] the access control list to generate

access filters that configure the network device to control

network communications in the network device from the

translated policies.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second

device further comprises a permit filter.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising a

plurality of data-storage devices adapted to permit access to

the second device.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second

device further comprises a deny filter.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising a

plurality of data-storage devices adapted to deny access to the

second device.

14.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-

readable medium which stores computer executable instructions

for managing policy rules on a network, the instructions causing

a computing[[er]] machine to perform operations comprising:

      simplifying said policy rules, at least to remove

duplicate policy rules and to form simplified policy rules,

wherein a policy rule comprises one or more conditions and

one or more values associated with the one or more

conditions, the one or more conditions to be evaluated for

network communications based on the one or more values, and

said simplifying comprises eliminating at least one of any

redundant conditions and values from the policy rule based

at least in part on condition-type information of the one or

more conditions;

      based on said simplified policy rules, creating[[e]] an

access control list adapted to configure a network device

the devices from the simplified rules; and

us_ing_[[e]] the access control list to generate access

filters _that configure the network device to control network_

communications in the network device.

15.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14 _wherein_

the operations further compris~~eing instructions to~~ expand_ing_ the

policy rules into value groups, wherein value groups represent

conditions occurring in the network device associated with the

policy rules.

16.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15 wherein

the ~~instructions to translate the policy rules~~ _simplifying_

further includes ~~instructions to~~ exclud_ing_[[e]] conditions that

would otherwise be implied by the policy rules.

17.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16 wherein

the ~~instructions to translate the policy rules~~ _simplifying_

further includes ~~instructions to~~ resolv_ing_[[e]] inconsistent

conditions that result from expanding the policy rules and

excluding the policy rule conditions.

18.   (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

a configurable management process located on the <u>network</u>
device having instructions to <u>effect operations comprising</u>:

receiv<u>ing</u>[[e]] ~~the~~ policy rules in ~~a~~ <u>the</u> network
device;

translat<u>ing</u>[[e]]e the policy rules <u>into</u> ~~a set of~~
simplified rules ~~at least removing duplicate parts of said~~
~~rules to form said simplified rules~~, <u>wherein a policy rule</u>
<u>comprises one or more conditions and one or more values</u>
<u>associated with the one or more conditions, the one or more</u>
<u>conditions to be evaluated for network communications based</u>
<u>on the one or more values, and said translating comprises</u>
<u>eliminating at least one of any redundant conditions and</u>
<u>values from the policy rule based at least in part on</u>
<u>condition-type information of the one or more conditions</u>;

creat<u>ing</u>[[e]] an access control list adapted to
configure the network device from the simplified rules; and

us<u>ing</u>[[e]] the access control list to generate access
filters <u>that configure the network device to control network</u>
<u>communications in the network device</u>.

19.   (Original) The device of claim 18 further comprising a
connection to an external network.

20.   (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the external network is a local area network.

21.   (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the external network is the Internet.

22-24. (Cancelled)